

Claims:

1. (Original) A method to backup data from a storage environment, comprising:

receiving storage extents associated with a frozen image representing the data as it resides in the storage environment;

issuing operating system input/output (I/O) operations to one or more storage devices housing the frozen image using the storage extents to acquire the data; and

issuing one or more of the operating system I/O operations to a storage media to write the data to the storage media.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein in issuing the operating system I/O operations, the operations are issued from a first computing device which is separate from second computing device wherein the frozen image and storage extents are created.
3. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

issuing a configuration identification operation to determine if a number of the storage extents have been altered within the storage environment after the frozen image is created and before issuing the operating system I/O operations; and

receiving only the number of storage extents which were altered, if at all, before proceeding to issue the operating system I/O operations.
4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein in receiving the storage extents, the storage environment is interconnected by a storage area network (SAN).

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein in receiving the storage extents, the data is at least one of a file, a set of files, a file system, a set of file systems, a volume, and a set of volumes.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein in issuing one or more of the operating system I/O operations to the storage media to write the data to the storage media, the storage media is a non-volatile storage media.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein in issuing one or more of the operating system I/O operations, any error processing associated with issuing the I/O operations is performed by the operating system.

8-20. Cancelled.